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THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (a) 54, Sir.

" (b) The cost of a small portable X-ray apparatus is about Rs. 6,000."

X-ray units in Government hospitals.

* 649 *Q.*—SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state how many X-ray units exist in the Madras State Government hospitals at present?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" 54, Sir."

SRI A. RATNAM :—" May I know from the Hon. the Minister for Health the number of X-ray plants installed in the Government hospitals in the City of Madras and the headquarters hospitals in the districts? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" About 17 apparatuses are in mufassal places and the rest are in Madras City."

SRI S. JAYARAMA REDDIAR :—" May I know what the difference between an X-ray plant and X-ray unit is? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" There is no difference, Sir. We have got X-ray diagnostic units and X-ray therapeutic units."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" In view of the indispensable character of X-ray plants on account of their diagnostic and therapeutic values in treatment, may I request the Hon. Minister to see that rural hospitals and at least the taluk headquarters hospitals are fitted with these plants? Otherwise, the patients from the rural areas are put to great difficulty in coming over to the towns and sometimes to the district headquarters. I may also suggest that X-ray plants fitted in the towns by private doctors are very costly and beyond the means of the ordinary patients."

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" We have got X-ray diagnostic plants in all district headquarters hospitals and in a few taluk headquarters hospitals. It will take a long time for us to set up these plants in rural hospitals. They are very costly and we have not got the men necessary to handle these sets."

SRI M. PALANIYANDI :—" Even after allowing for depreciation on account of the plant having been used for the past three years, Rs. 5 are charged for every X-ray photo. Will the Government come forward to reduce the fees charged in the headquarters hospitals for this purpose? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" In the City we have got much bigger plants and it does cost a good amount for buying films."

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SRI K. MADHAVAN NAMBIAR :—" How many X-ray plants are there in the Malabar hospitals? Is it a fact that the photographs taken are not clear and if so, will the Government take necessary steps to improve the same, Sir? "

8-30 a.m. THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I do not know whether the Malabar photos are not clear. (Laughter.) But we have got an X-ray set in the Headquarters Hospital, Kozhikode."

SRI N. RAMAKRISHNA AYYAR :—" What is the probable time by which all the taluk headquarters hospitals will be equipped with X-ray plants? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" It will take a considerable time, Sir. As I said already, we have not got the men with the D.M.R. qualifications to be put in charge of these X-ray plants."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" In the Government Hospitals, whenever the patients are X-rayed, a fee is generally charged. In view of the fact that the patients are X-rayed only to help the doctors to diagnose the disease and treat the patients concerned and in view of the fact that for thermometers and other implements which are used by the doctors to diagnose the patients' disease no fee is charged, is it not just that the Government issue instructions to the department not to charge any fee for X-raying the patients? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Well-to-do people have to pay for the services rendered. I am surprised at this request from a Communist Member."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" On a point of personal explanation . . ."

MR. SPEAKER :—" There are 40 questions to be covered. So . . ."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" The Hon. Minister has made an insinuation by saying that he was surprised at the statement from a Communist Member. I only put forward the argument that as the patients are not charged any fee for thermometers and other equipment which are used by the doctors for diagnosing the patients' diseases, they should not be charged any fee for getting X-rayed which is also resorted to for diagnosing the disease of the patients."

MR. SPEAKER :—" What is the personal explanation? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I only said that some distinction was made between rich and poor."

SRI C. RAJAM RAMASAMI :—" Will the Government consider the advisability of providing mass X-ray units to tour round the districts and take mass X-rays? "

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The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" We have already one mass X-ray unit in the City. It will be a very costly apparatus. So it is not possible to have a mass X-ray unit in all mufassal places."

Visual education.

* 650 *Q.*—Sri K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) in how many schools, pupils enjoyed the benefit of visual education ;

(*b*) the amount of public money that was spent on this during 1952–53 ; and

(*c*) who is in charge of this section and what are the qualifications prescribed for the post held by him?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) 320 schools.

"(*b*) Rs. 31,700.

" (*c*) A Special Officer was in charge of the work relating to Audio-Visual Education in the Office of the Director of Public Instruction. The post has been vacant from 1st October 1953, as the Special Officer was allotted to the Andhra State. The Technical Education Officer in the Office of the Director of Public Instruction is now attending to the work. No qualifications have been prescribed for the post and the matter is under consideration."

Sri K. ARANGANATHAN :—" In almost all the high schools in the mufassal, the students do not have the benefit of visual education and no machinery is available. In spite of this, all the schools are collecting visual education fees. What are they going to do with the money so collected? May I also know why they have not installed the necessary machinery? "

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" This matter came up for consideration before the Committee that was appointed to go into this subject, viz., audio-visual education. There is this Standing Committee which has considered this matter. We are taking steps to see that all the schools are provided with the necessary equipment."

Sri K. V. RAMASWAMI :—" Visual கல்விக்காக உயர்தரப்பள்ளி மாணவர்களிடமிருந்து தனியாகப் பணம் வாங்கப்படுகிறது. எட்டு மாத சம்பளத்தைப் பத்து மாதச் சம்பளமாக ஆக்கி, சம்பளத்தை உயர்த்தியும் விட்டதால் மாணவர்கள் ரொம்பவும் கஷ்டப் டுகிறுர்கள். ஆகவே இந்த **Visual** கல்விக்காக வசூலிக்கப்படும் பணத்தையாவது ரத்துசெய்வார்களா?"

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" It is only a very small fee compared to the other fees collected. We feel this audio-visual education is a good thing which should be promoted."